April 15, 1940

Nelle L. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Chapter 4 - Section 2.

It was just one hundred and sixty-five years ago when irate West Virginians paid off a long standing grudge against the Ohio Indians at Point Pleasant. Ever since the close of the French and Indian was, 1763, the Indian Nations who resented being "sold down the river" by the French, continued to pester the frontiersmen by murderous raids and sneaking attacks. In May, 1774, the House of Burgesses authorized the raising of an army and no time was lost in getting down to business. Each county already had a well organized militia system. Gen. Andrew Lewis was given command of the southern wing or the army which included Augusta, Botetourt and Fincastle. Botetourt included the Greenbrier Settlements. The troops were massed at present Lewisburg. Capt. John Stuart commanded a company of thirty-seven men raised from the vicinity or the present Pocahontas County. His sergeants were James Donnally, Chas. O'Hara, and Harriman Skidmore. His musketeers were Daniel orkman, Samuel Williams, Wm. O'Hara, Robert O'Hara, James auley, Archibald McDowell, Wm. Hogan, Andrew Gardiner, Quavy Lockhart, Samuel Sullivan, Thomas Ferguson, John McCandles, Thomas Gillispie, Henry Lawrence, John Crain, Wm. Dyer, Edward Smith, John Harris, Joseph Currence, William Clendenin, Spencer Cooper, Daniel Taylor, Jos. Day, Jacob Lockhart, Geo. Clendenin, John Burke, Charles Kinnison, William Ewing, John Doherty, John McNeel, and Jos. Campbell. The names of these men should be emblazoned in bronze at Marlinton for they had

the honor of engaging in the last colonial pitched battle on Virginia soil and at the same time, in the preliminary battle for American independence. Captain Stuart's Company had the honor of being the first to march out of Camp Union (Lewisburg) for the battle front on the Ohio one hundred miles away, Sept.6, 1774. The rest of the little army of five hundred fifty men followed in four days, and they reached "the Point" October 9th. Before breakfast the next morning the battle was on against a superior number of Indians commanded by the famous chief, known to the Virginians as Cornstalk. The battle waged furiously throughout the day without victory or defeat to either side. Virgil Lewis says, "General Lewis now knew that if the battle was not ended before night settled down upon the field, it would be a night of massacre, or the morrow a day of great doubt, and he resolved to throw a body of men into the rear of the Indian army. He therefore sent three of the most renouned companies on the field to execute this movement. They were those of Capt. George Mathews, John Stuart, and Evan Shelby, the latter now commanded by his son, Lieut, Isaac Shelby. They were called from the front, then proceeded up the Kanawha to Crooked Creek, then up Crooked Creek to their destination, and poured a destructive fire upon the Indian rear". This coup caused the Indians to retreat. The battle was ended. Let Pocahontas County people note that their company under Captain Stuart helped deliver the knock out blow. Three of Stuart's men suffered wounds during the battle - Kinnison, William Clendenin,

and Thomas Ferguson. Thus did Greenbrier Valley men valliantly acquit themselves on this first field or battle for American Independence. Had not Gov. Dunmore stopped them at the Ohio, these Virginians would doubtless either annihilated the Ohio Indians on their own ground or driven them out of the country.

(This was taken from an article written by A. E. Ewing, of Grand Rapids, Michigan and published in the Pocahontas times October, 1939.)

The following is a note written by Calvin Price, Editor of Times:

Naturally, I agree with Mr. Ewing's suggestion of an appropriate bronze marker with the names of our Indian fighters thereon. Probably someday we will stir ourselves and do this belated honor. There is a rub however, and that is the fact that what now embraces Pocahontas was divided between Augusta and Botetourte counties back in the time of the Revolution. Everything north of Swago was considered Augusta and below that creek was considered Botetourte - no line having been surveyed until 1785, eight years after the formation of Greenbrier in 1777, as between Harrison and Greenbrier. While the roster of Captain Stuart's has been preserved, so many of the rosters of Augusta county have been lost. Off hand I would say that our men went out under Capt. George Moffett, and I have never seen a list of his soldiers. He spent most of the summer of 1774 repairing the fort at

Clover Lick, and recruited his men from this section. Off hand, again I can recall some of them: the Warwicks, the Camerons, the Sitlingtons, the Wooddells, the Poages, the Waughs, the Slavens, William Sharp, Moses Moore, the Drinnons, the Bridgers, the Friels, John Johnson, and the Arbogasts. Until the list of our heroes can be made complete, it might be a good idea to defer the idea of the bronze tablet.

Mrs. Nella F. Yeager
Nella Yeager

From notes taken from the Diary of Captain H. A. Yeager
Nella Yeager

US 219

6

DEVELOPMENT OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

(The facts concerning the development of this county in the last decade of the nineteenth century which were momentous years for Pocahontas County.)

In December 1890 a great snow fell known as the "winter of the deep snow;" it lay on the ground to a depth of more than three feet. While that deep snow lay on the ground the late Colonel John T. McGraw of Grafton made a visit to this county and purchased the farms known as Marlins Bottom for a town site, now known as Marlinton and the county seat of Pocahontas.

At the time Col. McGraw purchased Marlins Bottom, historic Huntersville was the County seat. The purchase of the town site by Colonel McGraw was the first intimation that county people had of a proposed railway development. Colonel McGraw, who had invest largely in lands elsewhere in the county never ceased trying to interest capitalists in this county and develop it with a railroad. His tireless energy was rewarded. The Greenbrier Railway was built and finished to Marlinton in 1901. The Coal and Iron was built soon after to connect with it at Durbin. In two years Pocahontas County changed from being one of the few counties in the State without a railroad to a county having the greatest railway mileage of any county in the state.

Marlinton began to improve at once. It was incorporated at the April Term of Court, 1900, and held its first election of officers May 5th 1900.

The first newspaper to be published in the county was the Pocahontas Times founded in 1882 at Huntersville and moved to

Marlinton in 1892. The Pocahontas-/Herald was published in 1894 at Huntersville and later at Marlinton and ceased to be published in 1896.

The first telephone to be built in the county was the Marlinton and Beverly telephone line finished to Marlinton in August 1899. That same year telephone lines were built along all the principal roads of the county.

The first Bank to go into business in the county was the Bank of Marlinton in 1899 and later in the same year, the Pocahontas Bank was opened. For more than a year these Banks carried in large sums of money by special messengers from the nearest express stations from forty five to fifty seven miles distant, over lonely roads. At the time of the railroad development the natural resources had never been touched. Vast areas of iron ore land in the east of the county will some day make Pocahontas County famous as an iron field.

It was discovered in the nineties that Pocahontas County has a vast supply of marble which is equal in value to any marble ever found in the United States and it will some day be ranked high among the marble deposits of the world. It was reported by specialists in marble that the Pocahontas Marble was not good. The best evidence that we have that the report was false is that they could not purchase it. The citizens of Pocahontas County know that they have treasures in Marble Mountain. In this great mountain of marble in Pocahontas County and extending into Randolph County we find white, brown and a beautiful green marble. When the time comes for Pocahontas citizens to develop it, the right kind of capitalists will share in it. Capitalists who will not wa

to take over the great marble area and take the county's resources and money to some distant city. Let the shipping point be here and by the citizens.

The bulk of the timber has been taken out and floated down the Greenbrier River by the St. Lawrence Boom and Manufacturing Company, having removed in this manner a quarter of a billion feet of white pine.

The walnut and cherry have been taken out by rafting on the Greenbrier which was once an important industry, rafting floods in the river being anxiously watied for.

There were a number of skillful pilots who could thread their way with a raft of 50,000 feet of lumber between the rocks of this swift river.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

FIRST THINGS IN MARLINTON (Continuation of report for April 3 on the history of Marlinton)

The first court was held under an oak tree on the west side of the river by Squire G. M. Kee. The first lawyer to plead in Marlinton was F. J. Snyder a noted lawyer who lived in Huntersville. He was opposed that day by L. M. McClintic who was just starting on his professional career.

The first term of the Circuit Court was held in 1898. The election to move the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton was held in the fall of 1891, and a Temporary Court House, and old wooden structure was erected.

The judge was Judge A. W. Campbell of Monroe County. He was a great lawyer over six feet tall, with a heavy black beard, and weighed 315 pounds.

The first sheriff of the county Major William Poage, lived at Marlinton. His house was near Eleventh Street on Camden Avenue. In this house was born James A. Moffett who in his lifetime was president of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

The first postmaster was James Atlee Price.

The first student to go to college from this place was Rev. William T. Price A. B., A. M., D. D.

The first bank was the Bank of Marlinton in 1899.

The first newspaper was the Pocahontas Times, founded in 1882 at Huntersville and moved to Marlinton in 1892.

The first store was opened by J. M. Apperson in a house now occupied as a dwelling. The first business of any kind established in Marlinton was a combined saw mill and carding mill built by James A. Price before the Civil War. It was in charge of Jeres E. A. Gibbs who later became wealthy by the invention of a sewing machine.

One of the first stores was opened by Paul Golden who is still among us, and still in the mercantile business. A sign that he had painted on the store in his early days caused some hilarity among the nations of the world. It read:

"Be no further to be chanted". The language is loose and capable of two constructions. Anyway it has the right to be grouped under the head of Commercial Gander. (Paul Golden is a Jew who had come here from Europe)

The first school of which there is any official record was a private enterprise. It was opened in a building that stood near Riverside, and it closed after a session or two.

The first teacher's institute was held in 1886 in the Presbyterian Church.

The first church was the Presbyterian on the site of the present church.

The first resident judge of the court was Summers L. Sharp.

The first mayor of the town was Andrew Price.

The first state senator was H. G. McNeil.

The first Presidential Elector was Col. C. H. Lee.

The first delegate to the legislature, L. W. McClintic.

The first member of the county court Dr. Merran H. Price.

The first chief of police, J. A. Sharp.

The first train to arrive was in 1900 when the track was completed to this place.

The first jail delivery was when Armstrong and Cumberland got out of jail at dusk one evening in the nineties. The jail had been completed and it was the modern idea of a strong jail. It was confidently expected that it would hold any body. The county had suffered a series of bold robberies and suspicion had attached to Alex Armstrong, an intelligent colored man, a native of this county, who had removed to an Ohio town. It was thought that he raided this county regularly and that he would come to the nearest railroad station, make a quick trip into the county and return with his booty. This belief was so sure that the authorities waited and watched for his return, and he showed up one winter day traveling incognito with a big, burly, strange negro. R. M. Burns arrested them and they were indicted and convicted of the robbery of Capt. A. W. Edgar, held up at the point of a revolver in his own house at nightfall.

[illegible] the jailor in and then [illegible] their escape. A large force of volunteers patrolled the roads all night and in the morning found the negroes about two miles from Marlinton. They had gotten lost and had wandered all night and when captured were about exhausted.

The two oldest buildings still standing are the Toll House and the McLaughlin House.

From - Pocahontas Times - 1923

By - Andrew Price

CORRECTION

In my manuscript on the History of Marlinton mailed in about April 3. I made this statement. "This is the oldest land mark east of the Mississippi".

It should read thus:

(This is the oldest land mark in the Mississippi basin.)

WILDERNESS BECOMES PARK

Boys do Great Work in a Year's Time

One year ago Droop Mountain Battlefield was a wilderness. There were a few monuments and graves, that for many years had been neglected. Two small signs along the road were all that told travelers that an important Civil War battle had been fought here.

On July 29, 1935 a CCC Company, 2598, located here and within a few weeks there was a great change. This change is still going on. Some of the work has been completed but a great deal more is yet to be done. When travelers now go along Route #219, and get near the Battle Field, they first notice the beautiful log fence that outlines the park. As they drive on down the road, the log portals are seen. We think they are the most beautiful entrances to a CCC camp in the state. Good roads lead through these portals and into first, the picnic area. This area has been cleared of underbrush, but all of natures beauty has been left. Picnic tables, shelters, ovens, and toilets have been constructed throughout the park area. All of these conveniences have been built out of material of a rustic nature.

One year ago Briery Knob was just a beautiful mountain to gaze at; an expanse of wilderness cutting off all probability of ascension. Today a road will take the traveler within a short distance of the fire tower and to all of the glory and beauty that nature has so bountifully bestowed upon our state, especially in this section. From the tower on Briery Knob, one can see all of the surrounding country and even some distance into the state of Virginia.